

CLAIMS

1. Pusher apparatus comprising:  
a track;  
5 a pusher mounted on the track for movement along the track;  
a spring mounted on the pusher for urging the pusher along the track;  
an axle rotatably mounted on the pusher; and  
at least one wheel fixed to the axle for positively engaging the track.
- 10 2. Pusher apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the track includes at least one line of slots or teeth along the track; and wherein each wheel is a cog bearing teeth for positively engaging the slots or teeth of the track.
3. Pusher apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising at least two  
15 wheels fixed to the axle for simultaneous rotation, wherein each wheel positively engages the track.
4. Pusher apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the spring is a coil  
spring.  
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5. Pusher apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the spring is coiled about the axle, one end of the spring being attached to the axle and the other end of the spring being attached to the pusher, whereby the coiling or uncoiling of the spring drives rotation of the axle.
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6. Pusher apparatus according to claim 4, wherein a first end of the spring is attached to a front end of the track and the second end of the spring is attached to the pusher, whereby the coiling of the spring draws the pusher along the track.
- 30 7. Pusher apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising a second axle mounted on the pusher, wherein the second end of the spring is coiled about the second axle.

8. Pusher apparatus according to any of claims 4 to 7, further comprising a rotary damper mounted on the pusher for regulating the rate of coiling or uncoiling of the spring.

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9. Pusher apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the damping effect of the rotary damper is adjustable.

10. Pusher apparatus according to any preceding claim, further comprising a latch  
10 for retaining the pusher at a desired position along the track.

11. Pusher apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the latch is mounted on the track and is releasable by trigger means located at the front end of the track.

15 12. Pusher apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the latch is mounted on the track and is releasable by applying rearward pressure to the pusher.